



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

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For Immediate Release

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Park Authority Continues Land Acquisition Efforts

The Fairfax County Park Authority has recently acquired several parcels of land in three magisterial districts. With the addition of this acreage to its holdings, the Park Authority now owns approximately 23,929 acres or 9.4% of the land mass of the county.

The Park Authority acquired 35 acres in the Sully District from the Cunigan family on April 25, 2007. The property abuts the Manassas National Battlefield Park along Bull Run to the west, and the Horne Property which is also owned by the Park Authority to the east. This site is home to an abundance of natural resources, and possibly cultural resources. The Park Authority utilized funding from the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) for this acquisition. CELCP, an extension of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, was established for the purpose of protecting important coastal and estuarine areas that have significant conservation, recreation, ecological, historical, or aesthetic value.

On May 3, 2007 the Park Authority acquired 31.5 acres in the Mount Vernon District from the Minnick and Tolson families. The property, located along Old Colchester Road, has a high potential for archaeological, historical, and pre-historical resources. This property abuts property owned by the Bureau of Land Management to the east, and will be an addition to Mason Neck West Park.

In Dranesville District, the Park Authority acquired 1.5 acres of ecologically-sensitive stream valley from the Hall family on May 14, 2007. The parcel, located near Olney Park, will be an addition to Pimmit Run Stream Valley Park and will provide a critical link for the Pimmit Run Stream Valley Trail.

Although the Park Authority increased its land holdings by more than 10% over the past five years, acquiring land through a variety of methods and means (purchase, donation or proffer) is much harder today due to increased development, a scarcity of available land and escalating prices. Land acquisition is supported in large measure by citizens who support park bond referenda as well as contributions to the Open Space Land Preservation Fund. For more information visit us online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/openspace.htm> or call 703-324-8578. For information about land acquisition contact the Park Authority Public Information Office at 703-324-8662.

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